

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MARIA ELENA PRIETO-RIVERA

§
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§

CRIMINAL NO. C-12-447

ORDER ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA

Now before the Court is the Findings and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge B. Janice Ellington containing her recommendation (1) that this Court adopt her findings that the Defendant's guilty plea in the above-styled and numbered cause was knowingly and voluntarily entered, with a full understanding of the consequences of the plea and the constitutional rights being waived, and that the plea was supported by an adequate basis in fact; (2) that the Court accept the Defendant's guilty plea; and (3) that the Court adjudge the Defendant guilty of the offense charged in Count One of the Indictment. (D.E. 16.)

On July 31, 2012, the Magistrate Judge, by designation and referral of this Court (pursuant to the authority of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(3) and this Court's standing order of referral) and with the consent of the parties, conducted the re-arraignment and guilty plea colloquy of the Defendant, Maria Elena Prieto-Rivera. The Indictment charged the Defendant with having committed the following offense:

On or about May 22, 2012, in the Corpus Christi Division of the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

Maria Elena Prieto-Rivera,

an alien who had previously been denied admission, excluded, deported and removed, knowingly and unlawfully was present in

the United States having been found at or near Kenedy County, Texas, without having obtained consent to reapply for admission into the United States from the Attorney General of the United States or the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the successor, pursuant to Title 6, United States Code, Sections, 202(3), 202(4) and 557.

In violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections, 1326(a) and 1326(b).

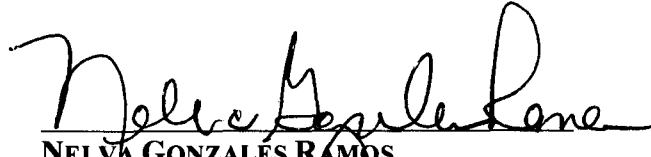
(D.E. 8.) After being placed under oath and advised of the charge against her, as well as her right to a jury trial and the consequences of entering a plea of guilty, the Defendant entered a plea of guilty to Count One of the Indictment.

Defendant has filed a Notice of No Objections to the Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations. (D.E. 19.) The Court regards this Notice of No Objections as Defendant's agreement with and acceptance of the Magistrate Judge's findings. When no objections to a magistrate judge's findings and recommendation are filed, the district court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record and accept the magistrate judge's findings and recommendation. *Guillory v. PPG Industries, Inc.*, 434 F.3d 303, 308 (5th Cir. 2005) (citing *Douglass v. United Services Auto Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1420 (5th Cir. 1996)); *United States v. Rivas*, 85 F.3d 193, 194 (5th Cir. 1996).

In the case at hand, the Court is of the opinion that the Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendation is supported by the record and that there is no clear error. Furthermore, the Court finds that the Defendant, Maria Elena Prieto-Rivera, is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea; that she is aware of the nature of the charge made against her, the consequences of her plea, and the nature of the constitutional rights that she is waiving; that her plea of guilty is a knowing and voluntary plea that did not result from force, threats, or promises (other than promises in a plea agreement); and that it is supported by an independent basis in fact containing each of the essential elements of the offense with which she is charged.

THEREFORE, the Court **ADOPTS** the Magistrate Judge's findings as its own, **ACCEPTS** Defendant's plea of guilty, and **ADJUDGES** the Defendant, Maria Elena Prieto-Rivera, guilty as charged in Count One of the Indictment.

ORDERED this 8th day of August 2012.



NELVA GONZALES RAMOS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE